

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07  
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-02 USIA-15  
PRS-01 SP-02 /066 W  
-----272009Z 016008 /73

R 271815Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3153  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS  
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS  
USMISSION OECD PARIS  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION GENEVA  
USNMR SHAPE  
AMCONSUL BELFAST  
AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 06862

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ELAB, UK, PINT  
SUBJECT: UNEMPLOYMENT AND VACANCIES - APRIL 1977

REF: LONDON 4838 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY. UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE UK ROSE BY 8,778 IN THE  
MONTH TO APRIL 14, ACCORDING TO FIGURES PUBLISHED BY THE  
DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT MONDAY, APRIL 25. THIS IN-  
CREASE BOUGHT THE UNADJUSTED TOTAL, INCLUDING SCHOOL-  
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LEAVERS, TO 1,392,250 OR 5.9 PERCENT OF THE WORKING  
POPULATION. THOUGH THIS IS THE HIGHEST APRIL TOTAL SINCE  
THE WAR, IT HAS BEEN SWELLED BY A LARGE NUMBER OF EASTER  
SCHOOL LEAVERS, 20,233 OF WHOM ARE STILL SEEKING WORK.  
AFTER SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT ADULT UNEMPLOYMENT INCREASED  
BY 1,500 TO 1,322,600 REPRESENTING 5.6 PERCENT OF ALL  
EMPLOYEES. END SUMMARY.

1. THE VERY SLIGHT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF REGISTERED UNEMPLOYED AFTER SEASONAL ADJUSTMENTS WAS GREETED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EMPLOYMENT, ALBERT BOOTH, AS CONTINUING TO "SHOW AN ENCOURAGING TREND DESPITE PESSIMISTIC FORECASTS." THIS VIEW HAS SOME SUPPORT IN THE RECORD OVER THE PAST THREE MONTHS SINCE IT DEMONSTRATES AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE TREND DURING 1976. SOME SECTIONS OF THE PRESS WERE QUICK TO NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT THE NEW FIGURES ALSO INDICATE THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF APRIL UNEMPLOYED SINCE THE WAR. MOREOVER, AS THE FINANCIAL TIMES (APRIL 27) REPORTS: "THE OFFICIAL VIEW REMAINS THAT THE LONG-TERM TREND IN UNEMPLOYMENT IS STILL UPWARDS . . . IT IS POSSIBLE THAT UNEMPLOYMENT WILL START TO CLIMB SLOWLY AGAIN DURING THE NEXT FEW MONTHS, ESPECIALLY IF THE GOVERNMENT'S EMPLOYMENT MEASURES HAVE NOW REACHED A PEAK."

2. SOME FURTHER ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE GOVERNMENT WAS PROVIDED BY THE FIGURES RELATING TO THE NUMBER OF VACANCIES NOTIFIED TO THE LOCAL OFFICES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT. THESE DATA ARE SEEN AS AN INDICATOR OF FUTURE TRENDS IN UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE APRIL RESULTS GIVE AN INCREASE OF 1,200 OVER THE PREVIOUS MONTH, GIVING A TOTAL OF 158,500. THIS NEW TOTAL REPRESENTS A 25 PERCENT INCREASE ON THE VACANCY LEVEL OF LAST AUTUMN AND IS THUS USED BY SOME COMMENTATORS AS EVIDENCE OF IMMINENT ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT. THIS INTERPRETATION, HOWEVER, IGNORES THE REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF AVAILABLE  
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VACANCIES WHICH SHOW THAT THE AREAS OF LOW UNEMPLOYMENT ARE THOSE WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF NOTIFIED VACANCIES.

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PRS-01 SP-02 /066 W

-----272008Z 016053 /73

R 271815Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3154

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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3. THE STABILIZATION IN THE UNEMPLOYED TOTALS OVER RECENT MONTHS IS PARTLY EXPLAINED BY THE IMPACT OF THE MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT TO PRESERVE AND CREATE JOB OPPORTUNITIES. EIGHT SEPARATE SCHEMES ARE CURRENTLY IN EFFECT AND THE MOST RECENT ESTIMATE IS THAT SOME 303,000 PEOPLE ARE DIRECTLY BENEFITING FROM THIS POLICY PACKAGE. THE FINANCIAL TIMES OF APRIL 27 SUG-  
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GESTS THAT WITHOUT THESE SCHEMES THE UNEMPLOYMENT TOTAL "WOULD BE ROUGHLY 200,000 HIGHER."

4. THE HIGH RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG SCHOOL-LEAVERS IS STILL THE CAUSE OF MUCH CONCERN. BOTH WITHIN AND WITHOUT THE GOVERNMENT. THE 20,233 INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF THOSE WHO HAVE RECENTLY LEFT SCHOOL AND WHO ARE STILL WITHOUT WORK COMES AT A TIME WHEN THE MANPOWER SERVICES COMMISSION IS CONSIDERING A REPORT CALLING FOR INCREASED HELP FOR THE YOUNG UNEMPLOYED. THE REPORT AROSE FROM THE LABOR PARTY/TUC LIAISON COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION THAT ALL SCHOOL-LEAVERS WHO ARE UNABLE TO OBTAIN WORK THROUGH THE LABOR MARKET SHOULD BE PROVIDED

WITH EITHER SPECIAL ASSISTANCE OR A TRAINING PLACE. IT IS WIDELY REPORTED THAT MEASURES TO IMPLEMENT THIS POLICY ARE SOON TO BE INTRODUCED AT A COST ESTIMATED BY THE FINANCIAL TIMES TO BE L67 MILLIONS. DAVID BASNETT, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE GENERAL AND MUNICIPAL WORKERS' UNION AND AN INFLUENTIAL MEMBER OF THE TUC GENERAL COUNCIL, CALLED UPON THE GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVE AND EXTEND ITS JOB CREATION ACTIVITIES.

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## Message Attributes

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